

GUIDE TO INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

NOTE

The term *Finance* affords a curious specimen of the irrelation between the etymological origin and the current application. Its root is ultimately (through the French) the Latin *finis* or *end*; and the present sense appears to be a coalescence (and general extension) of two obsolete meanings which it had acquired in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries of, respectively, the *' payment of a debt," and a " stock of money or goods." In the former application Chaucer causes one of his characters to say, "Dethe is my fynaunce,"—alluding to the ancient notion of death as the payment of the debt of Nature.